



**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF THE
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR THE AES HUNTINGTON BEACH GENERATING STATION RETOOL PROJECT
Docket No. 00-AFC-13**

On December 1, 2000, the AES Huntington Beach Limited Liability Company, (AES), filed an Application for Certification (AFC) for the AES Huntington Beach Generating Station Retool Project (Retool Project). The Energy Commission staff has begun reviewing the AFC for data adequacy, and the review will be completed within 45 days from the date of filing. If the AFC is determined to be data adequate by the Commissioners at the January 10, 2001 Business Meeting, we will begin the data discovery and analysis phases. These phases will include a number of public workshops and hearings. We will be scheduling an Information Hearing and visit to the project site in February, 2001, in Huntington Beach. The Commission's overall review process will be completed in a maximum of 12 months.

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines, natural gas pipelines and water pipelines. The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Retool Project will be a nominal 450 megawatt (MW), natural gas-fired boiler retooling at the existing Huntington Beach Generating Station (HBGS) located in the City of Huntington Beach, in Orange County. The 12-acre site is located at 21730 Newland Street, southeast of the intersection of Newland Street and the Pacific Coast Highway, and about 600 feet east of the Pacific Ocean.

AES is proposing to retool and operate Units 3 and 4, which currently exist, but are out of service at the HBGS. The steam turbine generators will be rebuilt with new natural gas burners, a burner management system, and new draft fans. Southern California Edison (SCE) took these units out of service in 1995 when it owned the HBGS. At that time SCE surrendered its operating permits to the South Coast Air Quality Management District. The Retool Project would restore these units to service. In addition to the boiler retooling, AES will be adding Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) equipment for emissions control.

The proposed Retool Project will be built entirely within the boundaries of the existing HBGS. No additional transmission lines or related transmission facilities will be required. It will use an existing 230 kilovolt (kV) switchyard owned by SCE. The

proposed project will use natural gas supplied by the Southern California Gas Company via an existing 30-inch diameter pipeline. No changes to the pipeline or onsite connection to the pipeline will be required.

The project will use once through circulating water from the Pacific Ocean for cooling, while process water for steam generation and potable water for domestic needs will be supplied by the City of Huntington Beach via existing city water mains. Circulating cooling water, plant low volume waste streams such as water softener regeneration brines, and stormwater are currently discharged from the plant to the Pacific Ocean under the provisions of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The retooled Units 3 and 4 would discharge to the same existing system.

During construction, a peak workforce of 530 people would be employed. During operation, the HBGS, with the addition of the retooled Units 3 and 4, would employ approximately 43 full-time staff.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The purpose of the AFC process is to enable the Energy Commission to assess the project's impact on environmental quality, and public health and safety. Over the next 12 months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings to determine whether the project should be approved for construction and operation and under what set of conditions. These workshops will provide the public and local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to ask questions and provide input about the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings, normally 14 days, but in no case later than 10 days prior to the meeting. If you are not currently receiving these notices and want to be placed on the mailing list, please contact Pat Owen, Project Secretary, at (916) 653-4677.

If you want information on how you can participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project, please contact Ms. Roberta Mendonca, the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 (toll free in California at (800) 822-6228), or by email at pao@energy.state.ca.us. If you require special accommodations to attend a workshop, please call Robert Sifuentes at (916) 654-5004, at least five days before a workshop. Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to Eileen Allen, Siting Project Manager, in the Energy Facilities Siting and Environmental Protection Division, at (916) 654-4082, or by email at eallen@energy.state.ca.us. The status of the project, copies of notices and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's Internet web page at www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/huntington. News media inquiries should be directed to Assistant Executive Director, Claudia Chandler, at (916) 654-4989.

This notice of receipt has been mailed to all parties that have requested to be placed on the mailing list during pre-filing and to property owners located adjacent to the project site and any of the project-related facilities. By being on the mailing list, you

will receive notices of all project-related activities and notices when documents related to the project's evaluation are available for review. If you want your name removed from the mailing list, please contact Pat Owen, Project Secretary, at (916) 653-4677.

AVAILABILITY OF THE AFC DOCUMENT

Copies of the AFC document are available for public inspection at the following libraries:

Huntington Beach Central Library
7111 Talbert St.
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Main Street Branch Library
525 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Banning Branch
9281 Banning
Huntington Beach, CA
92648

Copies are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Fresno, and Eureka. In addition, copies will be distributed to those public agencies which would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission's exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

DATE: _____

ROBERT L. THERKELSEN, Deputy Director
Energy Facilities Siting and
Environmental Protection

RLT:ea

Mailed to lists: